

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CARACA 08245 01 OF 02 241230Z

44

ACTION DLOS-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EA-11 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CG-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 FEA-02

AID-20 CEQ-02 COA-02 COME-00 EB-11 EPA-04 IO-14

NSF-04 SCI-06 ACDA-19 AEC-11 AGR-20 DOTE-00 FMC-04

INT-08 JUSE-00 OMB-01 CIEP-03 CEA-02 OIC-04 AF-10

EUR-25 NEA-14 DRC-01 /282 W  
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O R 240247Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5523

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY FIJI

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 CARACAS 8245

FROM US DEL LOS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS: DISCUSSIONS WITH BAHAMIAN LOS DELEGATION

REF: STATE 180638

1. SUMMARY. MOORE AND US ARCHIPELAGO TEAM MET WITH BAHAMAS  
DELEGATION PER REFTEL AND PROPOSED NEW DEFINITIONAL  
PARAMETERS OF AN ARCHIPELAGO WHICH WOULD INCLUDE ALL  
OF BAHAMAS EXCEPT CAY SAL GROUP. MOORE  
ALSO DETAILED GENERAL NATURE OF US INTEREST IN THE  
ARCHIPELAGO STRESSING THE DEFINITIONAL ASPECTS,  
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PAGE 02 CARACA 08245 01 OF 02 241230Z

SUPPORT FOR PASSAGE REGIME INCLUDING OVERFLIGHT AND

SUBMERGED TRANSIT, AND SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL STRAITS OBJECTIVES OF UNIMPEDED TRANSIT. BAHAMAS DELEGATE STEWART NOTED GENERAL BAHAMIAN AGREEMENT WITH THESE POINTS MADE CLEAR IN PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS. MEETING EXTREMELY CORDIAL AND SEEMED TO SUGGEST EARLY AGREEMENT ON ARCHIPELAGO AND STRAITS ISSUES BETWEEN US AND BAHAMAS. BAHAMIAN TEAM ISSUED INVITATION FOR MOORE AND ARCHIPELAGO TEAM TO VISIT NASSAU DURING SEPTEMBER TO FINALIZE AGREEMENT. BASE NEGOTIATIONS NOT RAISED. END SUMMARY.

2. US ARCHIPELAGO TEAM LED BY PROFESSOR JOHN NORTON MOORE AND INCLUDING STUART FRENCH (DOD), ADMIRAL MAX K. MORRIS (USN, OJCS), CAPTAIN GLENN YOUNG (USCG) AND DEPARTMENT GEOGRAPHER ROBERT HODGSON MET ON AUGUST 19 WITH MEMBERS OF BAHAMIAN DELEGATION INCLUDING GEORGE P. STEWART, FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MR. S.T. DEAN, GOBI MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

3. MOORE OPENED MEETING WITH STATEMENT THAT AS RESULT OF MEETING WITH FON. MIN, ADDERLY US HAD REEXAMINED PROPOSED US DEFINITIONAL PARAMETERS FOR ARCHIPELAGOS AS THEY RELATED TO THE BAHAMAS AND WAS PLEASED TO STATE THAT WE BELIEVED A MUTUALLY-SATISFACTORY ACCOMMODATION WAS POSSIBLE. MOORE INDICATED THAT US PREPARED IN CONTEXT OF MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATION TO SUPPORT ARCHIPELAGO FOR BAHAMAS WHICH WOULD INCLUDE ALL ISLANDS EXCEPT CAY SAL GROUP AND WHICH WOULD INCLUDE MOST AND POSSIBLY ALL OF GRAND BAHAMAS BANKS. ONLY COVERAGE QUESTION REMAINING CONCERNED POSITION OF SOUTHEASTERN BAHAMA BANKS. US WAS EXPLORING WAYS OF INCLUDING THIS AREA AND WAS EXPLORING LENGTH OF BASE LINE AND LAND WATER RATIO TO SEE IF THERE WAS SOME WAY OF RESOLVING THE PROBLEM. MOORE THEN OUTLINED US INTEREST IN THE SUPPORT OF THE ARCHIPELAGO PROBLEM, NOTING THE IMPORTANT POSITION OF INDONESIA ASTRIDE THE MAIN ROUTES BETWEEN THE PACIFIC AND THE INDIAN OCEANS. HE FURTHER COMMENTED ON THE GENERAL STRATEGIC POSITION OF OTHER ARCHIPELAGOS AND

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 CARACA 08245 01 OF 02 241230Z

THE NEED FOR A NEW LEGAL REGIME WHICH RECOGNIZED THE INTERESTS OF ARCHIPELAGIC STATES AS WELL AS THE ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENT FOR A SATISFACTORY TRANSIT REGIME THROUGH AND OVER THE ARCHIPELAGIC WATERS OF THESE STATES. HE CONDITIONED US SUPPORT FOR THE PRINCIPLE ON THE ACTIVE SUPPORT OF THE ARCHIPELAGO STATES IN RESTRICTING THE DEFINITIONAL PARAMETERS TO LIMIT THE APPLICATION OF THE PRINCIPLE, THE NEED FOR A REGIME

OF TRANSIT SATISFACTORY TO THE OBJECTIVES OF THE MARITIME STATES, AND SUPPORT FOR FREE TRANSIT THROUGH AND OVER INTERNATIONAL STRAITS. MOORE NOTED SUPPORT OF PRINCIPAL ARCHIPELAGIC STATES, INCLUDING INDONESIA, TO THESE THREE POINTS ALSO NECESSARY FOR US SUPPORT OF THE ARCHIPELAGO CONCEPT FOR ANY NATION.

4. STEWART OBSERVED THAT THE BAHAMAS DELEGATION IN PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS HAD GIVEN ITS FULL SUPPORT FOR THESE OBJECTIVES, INCLUDING OVERFLIGHT. IT WAS CLEAR FROM HIS STATEMENTS THAT THE CONDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS DID NOT DISTURB THE BAHAMIAN NEGOTIATING OR POLITICAL POSITIONS.

5. HODGSON EXPLAINED APPLICATION OF REVISED DEFINITIONAL PARAMETERS TO THE BAHAMAS ON LARGE-SCALE MAPS BUT UNABLE TO FURNISH SMALL-SCALE RETENTION COPY TO THE BAHAMAS DUE TO LIMITED SUPPLY OF CHARTS IN CARACAS. HE AGREED UPON HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON TO PRODUCE A CHART WHICH COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO GOBI. IN ADDITION, THE MAXIMUM LENGTH-OF-LINE PARAMETER HAS LED TO CERTAIN ANOMALIES IN SOUTHWEST BAHAMAS WHICH HODGSON WILL ALSO ATTEMPT TO RATIONALIZE AND CLARIFY IN WASHINGTON. A DEFINITIVE LAND/WATER RATIO WILL BE FORTHCOMING AT THAT TIME.

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PAGE 01 CARACA 08245 02 OF 02 241234Z

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S E C R E T FINAL SECTION OF 2 CARACAS 8245

6. STEWART EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION TO PROFESSOR MOORE FOR THE SERIOUS EFFORTS WHICH THE UNITED STATES OBVIOUSLY HAD MADE TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE BAHAMAS IN THE ARCHIPELAGO NEGOTIATIONS. HE INFORMED THE US GROUP THAT HE WOULD CONVEY THE US POSITION TO MINISTER ADERLEY IMMEDIATELY, ASSURING THAT LATTER WOULD BE PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE DISCUSSIONS. STEWART CLEARLY EXPECTED EXCLUSION OF CAY SAL GROUP AND SPECIFICALLY INDICATED THIS WAS NOT A PROBLEM. STEWART AGAIN NOTED THE BAHAMIAN PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED POSITION FOR FREE TRANSIT THROUGH, UNDER AND OVER THE WATERS OF THE ARCHIPELAGO AND THAT THESE CAUSED NO PROBLEM FOR THE GOBI. STEWART INFORMED MOORE THAT HE WOULD CONVEY HIS GOVERNMENT'S  
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SECRET

PAGE 02 CARACA 08245 02 OF 02 241234Z

REACTION TO THE NEW PROPOSALS AT THEIR NEXT MEETING. THE NEED FOR FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WAS THEN RAISED WITH REFERENCE TO A MEETING OF THE ARCHIPELAGO TEAM WITH THE OFFICIALS OF THE GOBI IN NASSAU. STEWART STATED THAT THE GOBI WOULD WARMLY WELCOME THE TEAM DURING THE EARLY PART OF SEPTEMBER, PROBABLY AFTER THE 8TH.

7. THE DISCUSSIONS CONCENTRATED ENTIRELY ON THE ARCHIPELAGO ISSUE. THE QUESTION OF DELIMITATION OF A MARITIME BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE BAHAMAS AND THE UNITED STATES WAS NOT RAISED, EITHER IN THE ABSTRACT OR WITHIN THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE APPLICATION OF THE ARCHIPELAGO PRINCIPLE. THE US DELEGATION HAS TAKEN THE POSITION THAT THE APPLICATION OF THE ARCHIPELAGO PRINCIPLE TO AN ISLAND STATE DOES NOT NECESSARILY HAVE DIRECT IMPLICATION THAT ALL ISLANDS, LOW-TIDE ELEVATIONS, REEFS, ETC. WOULD AUTOMATICALLY BE DETERMINANT BASEPOINTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EQUIDISTANT BOUNDARY. IN FACT, INDONESIA, WHICH APPLIES THE PRINCIPLE, TOOK A PARALLEL POSITION TO THIS IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA IN AREA OF TIMOR TRENCH. FINALLY, BASE NEGOTIATIONS WERE NOT RAISED BY EITHER SIDE.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: IF DEPT. AGREES, USDEL  
REQUESTS EMBASSY TO CONFIRM TRIP BY  
MOORE, OXMAN, HODGSON, FRENCH AND MORRIS TO NASSAU AT MUTUALLY  
CONVENIENT DATE. AS SEPTEMBER CALENDAR ALREADY HAS SEVERAL  
FIRM LOS ACTIVITIES, TRIP WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO BE AFTER SEPTEMBER  
23 UNLESS THIS DELAY WOULD CAUSE MAJOR DIFFICULTIES FOR GOBI.  
STEWART HAS TENTATIVELY INDICATED THAT END OF SEPTEMBER WOULD  
BE FINE WITH HIM.  
STEVENSON

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## Message Attributes

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